LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

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IF YOU ARE [illegible] A FREE OR LOT'S BADLY TRAINED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON

FEDERAL COURT ORDERS RELEASE OF FBI DOCUMENTS
DETAILING PLANS TO "DISRUPT THE NEW LEFT"

LIBERATION News Service

WASHINGTON (LNS)--Under pressure of a Federal court order, the FBI has released documents which detail an extensive three year campaign by the Bureau to "disrupt and otherwise neutralize the activities of the various New Left organizations, their leadership and adherents." The documents--directives from then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to regional offices--were made public after a 26-month court battle waged by a Ralph Nader legal group on behalf of NBC newsman Carl Stern.

The two documents released were the directives in which Hoover first set up the "Counterintelligence Program", called COINTELPRO, and later discontinued it. The Freedom of Information Clearing House won access to the documents in court and the FBI chose not to appeal the decision and handed over the two documents.

In the first memo from Hoover, dated May 8, 1968, the director announces that "the Bureau is instituting a Counterintelligence Program directed against the New Left movement and its key activists." Hoover explains that "the purpose of this program is to expose, disrupt and otherwise neutralize the activities of the various New Left organizations, their leadership and adherents."

The memo explains that the goal of the program must be to "frustrate every effort of these groups and individuals to consolidate their forces or to recruit new or youthful adherents." Hoover stressed that "no opportunity should be missed to capitalize upon organizational and personal conflicts of their leadership."

Among the suggestions Hoover offers to do the job is to use "the cooperation of reliable news media sources." He also warned that when using the press in this manner, caution must be taken that "the source will not reveal the Bureau's interest or betray our confidence."

The memo makes clear that this was not the only such activity conducted by the FBI but rather would serve "to complement and stimulate our accelerated intelligence investigations." Hoover did warn, however, that this mission was particularly sensitive and stressed that "the nature of this new endeavor is such that under no circumstances should the existence of the program be made known outside the Bureau and appropriate within-office security should be afforded this sensitive operation."

Hoover concluded the directive by expressing his concern that "the anarchistic activities of a few can paralyze the institutions of learning, induction centers, cripple traffic and tie the arms of law enforcement officials." He stressed that "law and order is mandatory for any civilized society to survive" and again emphasized that "the importance of this new endeavor cannot and will not be overlocked."

In a much briefer memo issued on April 27, 1971, it was announced that "to afford additional security to our sensitive techniques and operations, it is recommended the COINTELPRO operated by the Domestic Intelligence Division be discontinued." That memo reported that "at the present time this Division operates several COINTELPROS as follows:

*COINTELPRO--Espionage

*COINTELPRO--New Left

*COINTELPRO--Disruption of white hate groups

*COINTELPRO--Communist Party, USA

*Counterintelligence and special operations

*COINTELPRO--Black extremists

*Socialist Workers Party--Disruption programs"

The memo states that "although successful over the years" these programs should be discontinued "for security reasons because of their sensitivity."

At first, the released documents would seem like the Pentagon Papers in that they confirm charges leftists have been making about government policy for years. The language, timing and suggestions of the memos, however, offer hints that government involvement in the left might have been greater than even leftists guessed.

The Hoover memo announcing the program was dated May 8, 1969, about one month after the assassination of Martin Luther King (with the black rebellions that followed it) and in the midst of the Paris May uprising and the student rebellion at Columbia University. The memo terminating the program "for security reasons" was issued on April 28, 1971.

The events of that brief three year period were significant, indeed, for the left. Major splits occurred in the Students for a Democratic Society and the Black Panther Party. Campus rebellions peaked during the U.S. invasion of Cambodia in the spring of 1970 with hundreds of schools being shut down, only to have the student movement stunned and shocked by the killings at Kent State and Jackson State universities.

"They told me quite frankly that the Bureau informers within the Black Panthers had been told to align themselves with either the Cleaver faction or the Newton faction and intensify the split," one college professor who had consulted with Bureau officials recently told the Boston Phoenix.

Similarly, talk of a new push for a grand jury investigation into the Kent State killings surfaced last fall when an Ohio National Guard commander implicated a civilian undercover FBI informer as having fired the first shot. The informer, Terry Norman, who now is a policeman in Washington, DC, was never called before the grand jury which convened right after the killings.

Such information has led people like Peter Davies, the author of The Truth About Kent State, to speculate that the killings there were a calculated effort to clamp the lid on student protest. Davies suggests that future historians may find "that Kent State was the worst can of worms in the Watergate era."

Certainly enough information emerged in almost every major conspiracy trial coming out of that period--from the Chicago 8 to the Harrisburg 7--to

establish that FBI and government provocation and infiltration were more the rule than the exception.

The "security reasons" for why the program was dropped can also be looked at in terms of the time period. The termination memo was dated April 28, 1971. A little more than a month earlier--March 8, 1971--a still unknown group calling itself the "Citizen's Commission to Investigate the FBI" broke into the Media, Pa. office of the FBI and took all files, bulletins and memos in the office.

Three weeks later they began to mail copies of selected documents to the press and various legislators. The documents detailed the Bureau's policies of political repression. Some of the documents came under the heading COINTELPRO. The still-unapprehended Citizens' Commission continued to send out documents for the next several months greatly hurting the Bureau's public image.

So in May of 1971, Hoover decided to wait until the heat was off the FBI before continuing these operations. It had been in July of 1970 that presidential security advisor Tom Huston received Nixon's approval for a domestic security program that called for increased illegal surveillance, illegal mail inspection, break-ins and increased informer tactics against dissident American citizens.

Taking the program as a direct attack on the effectiveness of his work as well as a threat to the immense power he accumulated over 40 years, Hoover reportedly moved to block the Huston plan by threatening to expose the Nixon-ordered "Kissinger taps" of news people and high government officials. It was after Hoover issued the directive terminating COINTELPRO that Deputy Director of the FBI William Sullivan stole the files on the Kissinger taps and turned them over to Ehrlichman. It was then that the now famous Plumber operations moved into high gear which was what Hoover wanted to prevent from happening at all costs: people outside the bureau (and thus outside his direct control) doing domestic intelligence work.

Ramsey Clark, who was attorney general at the time Hoover instigated the counterintelligence work, said that the Justice Department knew nothing of the operation. Clark, who has worked with several movement groups in the last couple of years, theorizes that the Justice Department obeyed the court order to release the documents to make Nixon look good--the reasoning being that the program was set up under the Johnson Administration so the Nixon people aren't the only shifty people in government.

Asked what he thought of the Hoover operation, current FBI director Clarence Kelley defended the former director by arguing that "the government had to act in covert measures to protect the fabric of our society."

* * *

The Committee for Action/Research on the Intelligence Community (CAR'C) has obtained copies of the COINTELPRO documents released. People wishing to obtain copies can write: Intelligence Documentation Center/CARIC, PO Box 647, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC, 20044; or call (202) 785-8330. Please enclose $1 to cover the reproduction cost and mailing expenses.

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[See graphics section of this packet to see graphic to go with this story.]

300 POST OFFICE WORKERS DEMONSTRATE TO PROTEST TREATMENT OF PART-TIME WORKERS

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)--Three hundred post office workers demonstrated in front of New York's largest post office station January 9 to protest the situation of partime workers and Vietnam veterans.

During this past summer, the Post Office hired between 1,500-2,000 clerks as "substitutes"--or part-time help. "When subs were hired," writes Outlaw, a rank and file paper by and for postal workers, "they were told it was a full time career job. That was a lie. Management never told subs they can give them only four hours work daily anytime they want."

"They worked us a lot overtime during Christmas," explained one demonstrator, "and it's still peak season for mail now. But the rumors are already circulating that they'll be cutting back on hours come early spring. Rumors are powerful things--some people have already left to find other jobs. You can't support a family on four hours a day. We don't want anymore short hours. We're fighting for all of us to be made regular."

Also at issue is the Post Office's program for Vietnam veterans. This past summer they advertised a "walk-in test for vets" and 3,000 vets applied. Only 300 were hired and once hired, the vets discovered the catch--the program was not covered by the national contract.

"VRA [the Vietnam veteran program] employees don't even have the right to be represented by a shop steward and they don't get Sunday premium pay [regular employees get 25% more pay on Sundays]," writes Outlaw. "To top this all off, they don't begin to get seniority rights till after one year."

The demonstrating postal workers are demanding full and equal rights for all VRA employees. "The program is just a sham," said one picket.

The demonstration was organized by a rank and file committee within the postal clerk's union--the Metro Area Postal Union--a local of the American Postal Workers Union. (Mail carriers and mail handlers are organized under two other unions.) The committee traveled to different postal stations throughout New York City, talking to clerks in the lunchrooms about the demonstration. In the end they were pleased with the turnout. People from many different stations were present, "and it would have been a lot bigger if the snow storm hadn't kept people away," said one organizer. "This is just the beginning."

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YOU'VE PROBABLY RECEIVED YOUR JANUARY BILLS BY NOW. PLEASE TRY TO PAY SOMETHING ON WHATEVER YOU OWE US AS SOON AS YOU CAN. WE COULD REALLY USE IT.

INMATE FOUND SCALDED TO DEATH IN NJ STATE PRISON: "BUT THE LATEST OF A GREAT MANY MEN WHO HAVE MET RATHER CURIOUS DEATHS"

LIBERATION News Service

TRENTON, NJ (LNS)--Daniel Hogan, a 21 year old inmate of Trenton State Prison who had agreed to give evidence against guards regarding the death of another prisoner was slowly scalded to death in his cell December 27.

According to the New York Times, Hogan was being kept in the "hole" or segregation, a double door concrete cell built 150 years ago. A spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies, which is in charge of the prison, said that Hogan was in the hole for "psychiatric observation". They said that he had flooded the cell by jamming the toilet and that a radiator had turned the water into steam.

However, in a letter to the Fortune Society, a prison reform group, three inmates said that Hogan had cried out through the early morning hours "Let me out of here--you are trying to kill me." At one point a guard told Hogan "You can die for all I care" and said that if he didn't stop shouting "I'll close the door so nobody can hear you."

"The officer then closed the door on the man with the steam steaming out of the cell," the letter said. At 5:15 the body was found floating in 9 1/2 inches of steaming water. "He appeared to be boiled to death," the inmates wrote.

Hogan had agreed to testify in a suit against several officials and guards brought by the family of R. Merrill Speller. Authorities claim that Speller strangled himself with a pair of socks on March 17, 1972 at the Vroom Building, a detention center administered by the Trenton State Prison supposedly for "mentally disturbed" inmates.

Speller's family has charged that he was murdered and pointed out that he was nearing the end of his 12 1/2 year term and was challenging the sentence besides--no reasons to suddenly commit suicide.

Speller and Hogan were both held in the Vroom building at one time. In a letter to the Fortune Society postmarked February 23, 1972, Hogan wrote ". . .things are getting worse. This morning they [the guards] almost killed a prisoner. They brutalized him with sticks and kicked him in the face and all over and this act of animalism continued for 15 minutes. I told them to stop but they said 'You should shut your mouth, you little bastard, or you'll get worse than he did.'"

In the letter Hogan identified the prisoner as Speller and said he knew the names of the guards involved.

The Vroom building is known among the prisoners as "the place where men go to die," according to a spokeswoman for Prisoners Rights Organizational Defense of ACLU in Newark. Inmates considered too personally or politically aggressive are "cooled out" there with drugs.

Another inmate of the Vroom building, Wilfred Hardman, died on January 27, 1972, of what the authorities say was a brain tumor. Sometime earlier, Hardman's mother, a registered nurse, had said she felt her son was being heavily drugged and expressed concern for his safety.

Speller wrote to the Fortune Society that he was afraid that a letter he had received asking about Hardman's death had "caused the people here to re-evaluate their plans on what they intend to do with me."

"Suddenly I found that I was soon to be iced [murdered]," he wrote.

In a statement on Hogan's death, Speller's brother, Alfred, said the prisoner was "but the latest of a great many men who have met rather curious deaths, or been rendered useless as witnesses against the Department of Institutions and Agencies while in the care of the Department of Institutions and Agencies. . . ."

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[For more information on the Farah strike, see packet #567]

FARAH STRIKE SUPPORTERS WIN LEGAL BATTLE TO PICKET DEPARTMENT STORE

ROCHESTER, NY (LNS)--Supporters here of the striking Farah workers have won a court fight against Sibley's, a Rochester department store, allowing them to continue picketing the store in support of the boycott of Farah pants. The picketers, who were from the Center for United Labor Action (CULA--a national workers support group not affiliated with any labor union) were charged with violating the labor law by engaging in a secondary boycott.

A secondary boycott is an attempt to stop people from shopping in stores that sell a product made by scab labor. An example would be the United Farmworkers' boycott of A&P stores because they sell Teamsters' lettuce.

Since May, 1972, over 3,000 mostly Chicana workers in Farah's 8 men's pants-making plants have been on strike in an effort to gain union recognition. The nationwide boycott of Farah pants has taken a heavy toll on the company, whose refusal to grant union recognition to its workers cost it $14 million in profits last year.

Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Company charged that CULA was associated with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, which is attempting to unionize Farah plants, and that as a labor-connected association CULA cannot engage in a secondary boycott.

CULA countered Sibley's charge by stating that as a citizen-based organization, it doesn't fall under the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act. CULA also said that the injunction against their picketing was in violation of the First Amendment.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) had obtained a temporary injunction against the picketers on November 21, the beginning of the peak shopping season, pending the outcome of the NLRB's

scheduled January 8 hearing. At the hearing, the NLRB dismissed the case against CULA because of lack of evidence that the group was associated with Amalgamated.

A CULA spokesman said that if Sibley's had won their case, "any group involved in support of any labor issue would have to submit to government control and regulation."

CULA has charged that the Nixon Administration is responsible for supporting Farah in its attacks on striking workers and their supporters. CULA says that NLRB General Counsel Peter J. Nash (a Nixon appointee) has been active in pushing for the prosecution of CULA.

In March 1972, Nash sought injunctions against the United Farmworkers in an attempt to stop their successful use of boycotts. (The NLRB has no jurisdiction over the UFW). A year before, Nash had been attorney for two food and liquor conglomerates--Del Monte and Browne Forman, both of which were targets of the farmworkers' boycotts.

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ARMY RESISTER COURT-MARTIALED IN DENVER;
RICHARD BUCKLIN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS

DENVER (LNS)--Army Pvt. Richard Bucklin was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison and given a bad conduct discharge January 8 in a court-martial stemming from his 4 year exile in Sweden to protest the war in Vietnam.

Bucklin was the first resister to return from exile and stand trial and his case was viewed by many as an important precedent for future Army action against returning resisters.

"There are still a lot of Americans in exile and underground here who were right. I came back to verify that," said Bucklin. "Millions of Americans who broke the law in the end were right because the war was immoral and stupid."

Since Bucklin's return, two other army deserters, Eddie McNally and Lewis Simon, have turned themselves in in New York.

Bucklin's defense attorneys, National Lawyers Guild attorneys Rudy Schware and Jeff Goldstein, tried during pre-trial hearings to raise the larger issues in the case--the legality of the war, amnesty, and possible electronic spying by the government.

But Military Judge Col. William Laray barred them from defending Bucklin against the AWOL charges on these grounds and even ordered that the words not be mentioned during the trial.

The military jury which ruled against Bucklin in the two day trial consisted of five officers and four enlisted men. All but one of the nine were Vietnam veterans. One was a West Point graduate. A hint as to the outcome of the trial came early--during examination of perspective jurors on January 7--when Walter Owen, a black Colonel who is the senior officer on the court, said that his wife had asked him, "Why would he do it?" Owen told her, "I wouldn't even know."

The maximum penalty possible for Bucklin was two years imprisonment and a dishonorable discharge. But prosecuting attorney Capt. David Coyle suggested instead a lesser sentence--15 to 18 months--lest the Army turn Bucklin into a "martyr."

In his final argument he called Bucklin a "coward" and asked the board for a "stiff sentence" to challenge "these yokels around the world to see if they have the guts to come home and face their charges."

A Denver native, Bucklin once tried unsuccessfully to enlist in the Army. But later, after he began to hear about Vietnam and to think that the Army shouldn't be there, he was drafted. During training he made up his mind not to go to Vietnam and in the end his company was sent to Germany instead.

Bucklin testified during the trial, however, that his conscience wouldn't let him take that way out and, deciding that his work in Germany also supported the war effort, he fled to Sweden in August, 1968.

"I came to the final decision that the only way that I could resist and make a positive statement was to leave the Army and deny them the use of my body and labor."

Bucklin returned to the U.S. in July and surrendered to authorities at Fort Carson, Colorado. At that time the Army showed no desire to make an issue of his case and began processing his undesirable discharge.

A few weeks later, however, Fort Carson officials informed him of a change of policy and ordered his return to the base to face court-martial proceedings. At that point Bucklin went AWOL again and remained a fugitive until, accompanied by a handful of supporters, he walked into a military police office on October 4, and was immediately arrested.

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CHILD OF SINGLE WOMAN DISQUALIFIED FROM
FIRST-BORN-BABY-OF-THE-YEAR CONTEST

IOWA CITY, Iowa (LNS)--The first child born in Johnson County, Iowa this year was disqualified from a newspaper sponsored first-born-baby-of-the-year contest because his mother isn't married.

Pam Aubrecht of Iowa City says her son was born 14 hours before the baby named by the Iowa Press Citizen as the first of the year in Johnson County. Aubrecht stated that she might sue the newspaper for the $200 in prize money.

The Press-Citizen has responded by saying that the contest procedure included the "implied understanding that the parents be married."

"It is not stated in the rules that the mother must be married," said a spokesperson for the paper. "It is our feeling that it has always been the case that the parents were married. There is the usual disclaimer, as in any contest, that in the event of unusual circumstances a contestant could be disqualified." --30-- (Thanks to College Press Service)

ENVIRONMENTALISTS FIGHT PROPOSED OIL DRILLING BY AMOCO IN FLORIDA'S OCALA NAT'L FOREST

LIBERATION News Service

OCALA, Florida (LNS)-- A major battle is developing between the Amoco Production Company (a division of Amoco Oil) and Florida environmentalists, as Amoco tries to win approval of a request to begin "test drilling" in the Ocala National Forest.

The forest, a 672-square mile preserve located between Ocala and Daytona Beach at the northeastern end of the state, serves as home for several endangered species (including a nearly extinct type of panther), acts as a way station for migrating birds, and is a major area of recreation for Florida and the nation. It receives more than 2 million visitors each year.

Even more worrisome to many Floridians is the threat against their fresh water supply. The Ocala forest sits upon Florida's primary fresh water basin. It is feared that drilling risks polluting nearly all of Florida's fresh water. "The oil can come from somewhere else, the water Florida needs cannot," points out Lyman Rogers, a spokesman for the Florida Coalition to Protect the Ocala Forest. "If oil is found there would be total exploitation and the forest would become an oil field," Rogers added.

Amoco, a major subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana, moved in on Ocala in 1969 when the Bureau of Land Management sold 148 mineral leases to them for about 50¢ an acre. Standard Oil of Indiana is the 15th largest corporation in the U.S., according to Fortune magazine's list of the 500 top industrial corporations. Standard (of Ind.) has assets in excess of $6 billion, with a net income of 1972 of more than $374 million.

Those 148 leases, plus 15 others owned by independent oil operators, cover 349,000 acres or 95% of the forest's area. When news of the leasing leaked out, people in Florida protested and in 1971 Interior Secretary Morton ordered a one-year moratorium on exploratory drilling pending results of an environmental impact study. He also ordered public hearings. Since 1971, two more moratoriums have been issued, apparently because the Interior Department was reluctant to arouse the anger of Floridians opposed to the project.

However, now Amoco is banking on the fact that many Floridians, fearful of oil shortages, will permit the drilling. Amoco is quick to point out that "The Ocala won't solve the energy crisis, even if an oil field can be found. But it could help to ease the pinch in Florida."

Amoco has an interestingly contradictory position on the whole question: on one hand the company claims that it does not expect to find oil or gas in the first drilling. But on the other hand, it insists that the forest has the potential of helping to alleviate the energy crisis.

The federal government admitted in its environmental impact statement that "the potential for additional drilling exists whether or not oil or gas is discovered in the original well."

What Amoco is doing in Florida is an example of how oil companies are attempting to capitalize on people's fears of the energy crisis. Other examples include: serious backsliding on strip-mining legislation; the opening of western oil shale lands for exploitation by oil firms; relaxation of restrictions on nuclear power plant construction; reinstituting offshore drilling on the coast of California and starting it in Northeastern coastal waters; pushing through the Alaska pipeline and many other questionable projects which the environmentalist movement had kept at bay for the past several years.

Amoco is still facing significant opposition in spite of the energy "panic." In addition to citizens' groups, opposition is being organized in the Florida legislature. Florida Governor Reubin Askew has announced that he will oppose drilling "unless it can be conclusively demonstrated that it will not cause any adverse environmental affects." And Florida Attorney General Robert Shervin sent a representative to express his opposition to the operation at the two-day public hearing held in Ocala on January 8 and 9.

However, public pressure may not be enough now. Lyman Rogers fears that, since the completion of the environmental impact report released last month, only an act of Congress can prevent the drilling now. "Interior Secretary Morton has the authority to lease land, but no authority to deny the permits to sink wells," he says.

The crux of the matter is whether Floridians will believe Amoco's claims that the environment of the forest will be protected. Many Floridians look to areas like Appalachia where energy companies (support by government reports) insisted that the mountains could be strip-mined without adverse affect on the environment.

The environmental impact report on Ocala says that any oil found there could be removed without serious ecological harm. There could be scars, but potential damage from clearing, oil spills and fire would be short lived and confined to small areas. Government studies on the effects of strip mining in Appalachia also backed up the energy companies' rosy predictions.

Now, left with terrain that some describe as bearing a striking resemblance to the surface of the moon, with polluted water, land eroded and unproductive, Appalachians no longer believe such claims. And, judging from the battle being waged by concerned Floridians, neither do they.

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ENGLISH MINERS ENTER 3RD WEEK OF SLOW-DOWN
"HEATH WANTS US ALL TO BE SERFS"

LIBERATION News Service

LONDON (LNS)--"What Ted Heath wants, he wants us all to be serfs," said Joe Padgett, a miner for 31 years in England's government-owned coal mines, in a recent interview with a Washington Post correspondent.

Joe Padgett is in the higher paid bracket of England's 270,000 coal miners, who on January 14 entered their third week of a work slowdown, cutting England's coal production by 40 percent.

Joe works at the face of a coal seam and gets the top pay of $83 a week for five shifts of seven and a quarter hours each. Out of this he takes home $64, and in view of England's rampant inflation, he sees the government offer of a $5.80 a week increase as laughable. The miners are demanding an $18 a week increase, with a top base pay of $101.

"Bread's going up. Everything's going up. Heath is freezing wages, but not prices," Joe said.

The miner's slowdown consists of refusing to work overtime. However, Joe's paycheck hasn't suffered because due to an on-the-job accident he is not allowed to work overtime. During the ten months that he was laid up with a torn cartilage in his knee, Joe got $29 a week, and he was not compensated for his future loss of income. His situation is not uncommon. Last year, one out of four miners suffered some kind of injury in the mines.

"I wish I could get Ted Heath down in that pit. He'd just shoot his bloody self. It's three foot high and black dust all day."

Coal generates about 70 percent of Britain's electricity, and is its only indigenous energy source with coal reserves that could well last another 100 years. As a result England has not been as hard hit by cut backs in oil from the Middle East as other European countries.

In the last few years the government has greatly consolidated the coal industry. Mines have been closed and what used to be a workforce of about 700,000 miners has been cut to the present 270,000. The result has been more work for the remaining miners and more profit for the government.

The only way the nation can meet its present energy needs is by the remaining miners working overtime. The miners refusal to work overtime has all but brought England to its knees. A sympathy slowdown by railroad workers (coal is transported by rail) has further strengthened the miner's position against the government.

Although the railway engineers ended their slowdown on January 11, they continued their ban on overtime. On the 15th they called a 24 hour strike after negotiations between the government and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) had broken down the day before.

Heath's conservative government has responded to the crisis by instituting a three-day work week for most of England beginning January 1. With this tactic Heath hopes to conserve fuel and, more importantly, to deal a crippling blow to the British labor movement and the Labor Party. Already, as a result of the Heath plan, about one million workers have been laid off (nearly 5 percent of England's work force) with up to six million people not working on any given day. The wages of 15 million people have been cut by almost 40 percent.

And if Heath continues this plan, as he threatened to do in a recent press interview, the number of unemployed workers can be expected to soar. "The resumption of normal working by industry depends on the ending of the miners' industrial action," Heath announced on December 30.

In a January 7 interview with the New York Times, Heath ignored the devastating effect this plan could have on Britain's economy if prolonged much longer. He said the emergency measures could continue until the summer when consumption of energy falls off if the miners refused to give in on their demands.

However, many people, including industrialists, disagree. "With all respect," said Lord Stokes, chairman of British Leyland Vehicles, "he (Heath) does not quite understand the basic problems underlying all this and he is going to have a bankrupt nation if we go on for this length of time."

In 1972, a miner's strike was successful in gaining a wage increase, and a statement from the government that miners presented a strong case for special treatment under Heath's anti-inflationary policies.

This time, however, Heath seems determined not to "give in" to the miners, and there are reports that he might quickly call a general election in early February, while he still has enough support to win it. However, recent polls have yielded some evidence that the power of the Conservative party might not be strong enough to win an election now. Out of two surveys, one gave Labor the edge over the Conservatives.

It is expected that if Heath calls for a general election, his platform will include red-baiting. According to the British Manchester Guardian Weekly, Heath has already told Common Market leaders that it is the Communists who are threatening England through their militant trade union activities. Mick McGahey, vice president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and a member of the six-man steering committee, has been frequently singled out as a target for red baiting. He has been a member of the Communist Party since 1934.

There are also reports that the ten million TUC workers are considering a general strike if the government maintains its present hardline position on the miners. In 1926, a miners strike resulted in a gereral strike called by the TUC. In response, the governemt, at the instigation of Winston Churchill, called in troops to move

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[see packet #573 for last story on Wounded Knee]

FIRST WOUNDED KNEE TRIAL BEGINS: "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE TRIED FOR CRIMES AGAINST INDIAN PEOPLE"

LIBERATION News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (LNS)--Not quite a year after the 91-day occupation of Wounded Knee started on February 27, 1973, the first two trials of participants began January 8 in St. Paul. For the two defendants, Russell Means and Dennis Banks, both national spokesmen for the American Indian Movement (AIM), the trial will be a continuation of the confrontation at the historic village on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. "For the first time in history," said a statement by AIM, "the United States government will be tried for crimes against Indian people throughout America."

Means and Banks are the first two of six people the government has singled out as "leaders" of the occupation. They have been charged with burglary, larceny, assault on a federal officer, possession of unauthorized firearms, impeding federal officers in the course of a civil disorder, theft of a motor vehicle and conspiracy to commit all of these acts. Also charged with them are Clyde Bellecourt, Carter Camp, Stanley Holder and Leonard Crow Dog. Pedro Bissonette, the seventh "conspirator" was killed Oct. 17 by Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) police on the reservation.

Altogether more than 300 cases have come out of the occupation and with the exception of the conspiracy counts, all are standard "criminal" charges. While the Means and Banks trial goes on, February 4 in Sioux Falls, S.D., the first of the non-conspiracy Wounded Knee cases will begin, with the trial of Mary Ann De Cora, an 18 year old Winnebago Minneconjou Lakota from Sioux City, Iowa and Vaughan Dix Baker, a 24 year old Sioux from Montana.

Twenty four additional indictments were issued at the end of December by a grand jury supposedly looking into Pedro Bissonette's death. Dr. Paul A. Boe, a Lutheran minister in his 60's, who is executive director of the Division of Social Services of the American Lutheran church was ruled in contempt of the grand jury in December because he refused to reveal the names of people he might have seen carrying weapons inside Wounded Knee. The judge told him, "It is up to the defendent, as soon as he cooperates, he can be freed."

Trials of the 19 people charged with participation in protests around the death of Wesley Bad Heart Bull are still to start. Bad Heart Bull was killed by a white businessman in Custer S.D. who was given a 2 month suspended sentence for second degree manslaughter. These cases were recently transferred from state to federal court at the request of the defense. A judge is still deciding whether or not to move them back to state court.

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Already jury selection has begun in St. Paul. Although 30,000 Indians live in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, there is not one Indian on the whole jury panel. In fact, most of the people who have been called have been people not living in the urban twin-cities area but rather in the rural south of the state. This is particularly interesting because it is public knowledge that the defense is being assisted by radical sociologist Jay Schulman who helped on the jury selection process in such successful trials as the Gainesville 8, the Camden 28, and the Pentagon Papers trial. The basis of jury selection depends on being able to evaluate the kind of people who will be called for jury duty, who will be the most open to the defense arguments and how they will relate among themselves on the jury.

The U.S. government will try to prove that the Wounded Knee participants and AIM in particular are, as Judge Andrew Bogue (who originally was going to preside over the cases) put it, "hoodlums that are roaming the countryside damaging people's heads and property."

The defense, however, will try to prove that rather than being a "civil disorder" as the prosecution has charged, the occupation was the last in a series of peaceful attempts to remove the corrupt tribal chairman Richard Wilson.

But more than that the defense will try to put their actions in the context of the whole history of treatment of Native American people since white people came to this country and specifically the treaties which were supposed to hold the U.S. government to certain promises, most of which the government has not kept.

Probably most important of the "broken treatics" that the defense will cite in court will be the 1868 (or Fort Laramie) Treaty which promised the different Sioux tribes much of the land of what today is North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. None of this land could be confiscated unless 3/4 of all the adult male Sioux voted to dispose of it. However, by 1876, the Indians had already been swindled out of most of the land, including their sacred Black Hills where gold had just been discovered.

By the time of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the tribes had been brought under strict control of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (significantly under the "Interior" Department since by that time the government had forced U.S. citizenship on Native peoples while at the same time keeping them wards of the government.) The reorganization was an attempt to break the traditional tribal governments of the Indians and to institute more "American" forms of government--ones more tightly controlled by the BIA.

The chairmanship of Richard Wilson, whose corrupt regime sparked the activism on the Pine Ridge Reservation and led to the taking of the historic town is one example of the "Americanization" of the tribal governments. Wilson, through the backing of both the BIA and local white ranchers, as well as corrupt election practices was elected tribal chairman. He attempted to stir up fear against growing Indian activism and used the Trail of the Broken Treaties and occupation of the BIA building in Washington in November 1972 as a justification for more money to supply what had become known on the reservation as his "goon squad." The

goon squad has been used as a military force to try to intimidate opposition.

In the months between the Trail of the Broken Treaties and the occupation of Wounded Knee, Indian activism on the reservation increased and several attempts were made to impeach Wilson, who managed to buy off tribal representatives and even the tribal judge who was to hear his impeachment proceedings. By the end of February, people had gathered 1400 signatures on a petition to remove Wilson, which was to be brought to reservation superintendent Stanley Lyman.

Wilson's terror tactics still continue. Five people have been killed since the end of the occupation by either BIA police or members of the goon squad. Numerous other people have been shot, beaten, harassed or had their houses raided. The most recent incident was of an 87 year old woman, Lucy Little Boy, whose house was attacked by members of the goon squad and whose son was very badly beaten. The house of Gladys Bissonette (a member of the negotiating committee during the occupation and the aunt of Pedro Bissonettee) was also raided, her grandson stabbed and her daughter hit over the head with a shovel by goon squad members.

In February Wilson's term will be up and there will be an election on the reservation for tribal chairman. Seven people are running against Richard Wilson, including Russell Means, who is a resident of the reservation. Wilson however has appointed a well-known bootlegger to supervise the election and all the ballot counting and reporting will be done by Wilson's friends, paid by his administration. AIM and the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee are asking for outside observers to be able to come in to monitor the election.

In the meantime, Russell Means' and Dennis Banks' trial is beginning and Indians from the surrounding states are coming as they came to Wounded Knee. For the same issues that motivated the occupation of the historic village (where over 300 Indians had been massacred by U.S. troops in 1890) play an important part in the first trial to come from that occupation.

As one Lakota woman who participated in the liberation of Wounded Knee put it:

"The longest war that the United States government has ever waged has been against the American Indians. The war has never ceased. In the year 1973, from February 27 to May 8 there was an Independent Oglala Nation, established within the boundaries of the State of South Dakota, United States of America. No United States officials had any power within the borders of this new nation. No taxes were paid to any level of the United States government.

"This tiny piece of land was surrounded by United States troops, armored personnel carriers, helicopters, a daily barrage of bullets, a blockage of all medical and food supplies. No services were supplied by any governmental agency other than that created by the Oglala people in their own independent nation.

"For the first time in many years, the Oglala people could organize themselves according to their ancient spiritual values and ways of life--the Indian way. We were free! It was the first time that we had ever known freedom.

"We ran a hospital, a school for our children, we had a common commissary, we ran our own security force to enforce our borders. People got married, babies were born in a free land. For 71 days there was power in the hands of the Indian people. Men and women stood side by side in the kitchen, in bunkers, on patrol, in the hospital and in the schools, and at the constant negotiations with the United States government. The governing body of the Oglala Independent Nation consisted of every resident."

* * *

The Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee is asking that people send money, food and clothing to help provide for the Indian people who are traveling to St. Paul to support Dennis Banks and Russell Means. Send all contributions to Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee, 333 Sibley St. Room 605, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101.

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ENGLAND COAL MINERS----Continued from page 6

supplies and took control of the media. After 9 days, the strike was called off, with none of the workers' demands met.

The government then retaliated against labor with widespread wage cuts and a sharp decline in tarde union membership followed. However, the brutal anti-labor policies of the government and industries resulted in a major increase of strength for the Labor Party.

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PERSON "MOST WANTED" BY CHILEAN JUNTA ALIVE IN CUBA

NEW YORK (LNS)--There is at least some good news on the Chilean front these days. A man whom the junta had declared arrested or dead over and over again is alive and well in Havana, Cuba.

Carlos Altamirano, Secretary-General of Chile's Socialist Party and number 1 on the junta's "most-wanted" list, made his first public appearance on January 2 in the Cuban capitol. "I left Chile on a decision made by my party and am ready to return if necessary," he said.

Speaking at a press conference, Altamirano said that more than 15,000 people have died since the coup; more than 30,000 have been arrested; 200,000 people have been fired from their jobs and 25,000 students expelled from the university. However, he added, "Thousands of people are fighting, thousands are ready to participate in the struggle against the fascist dictatorship."

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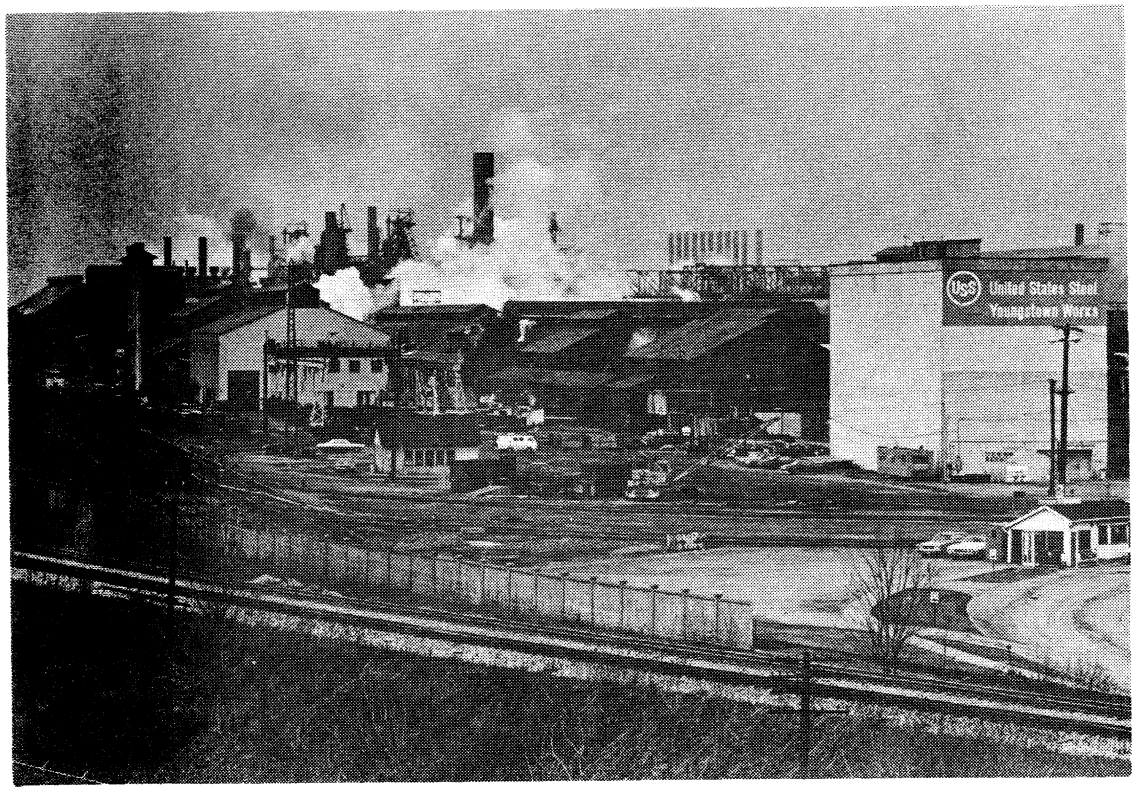
(Thanks to People's Translation Service for this.)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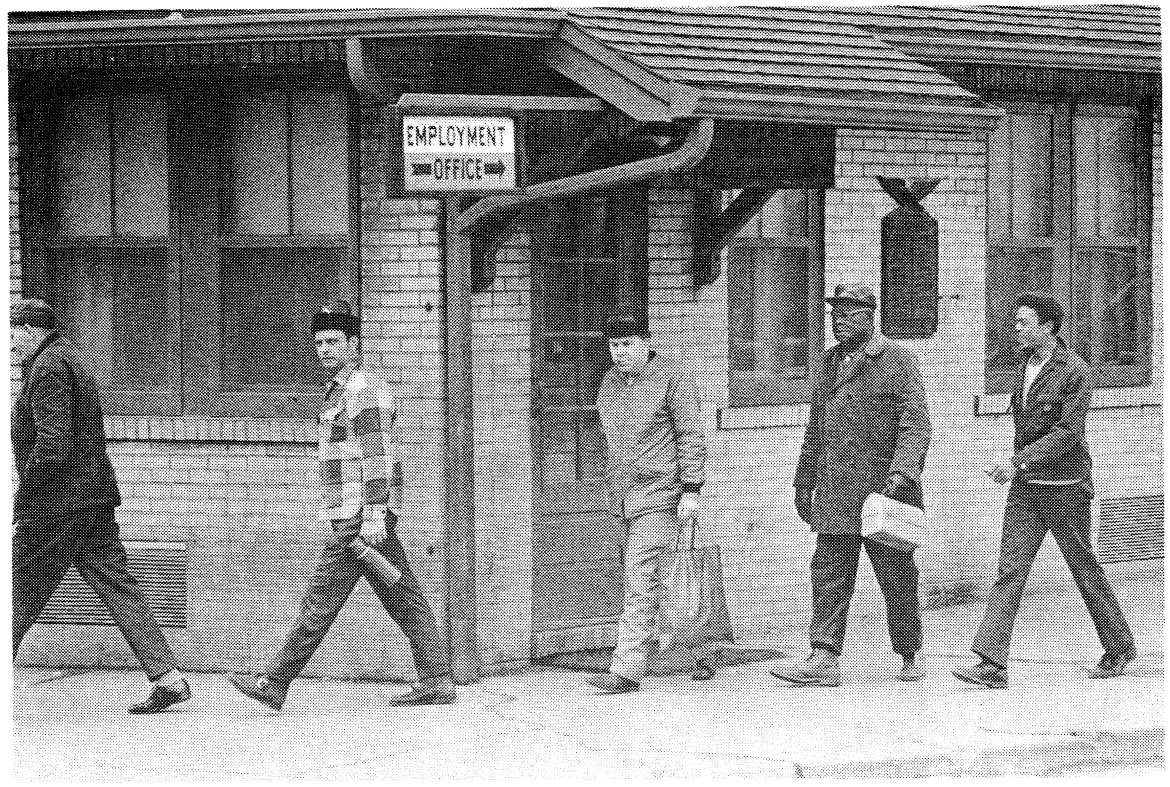
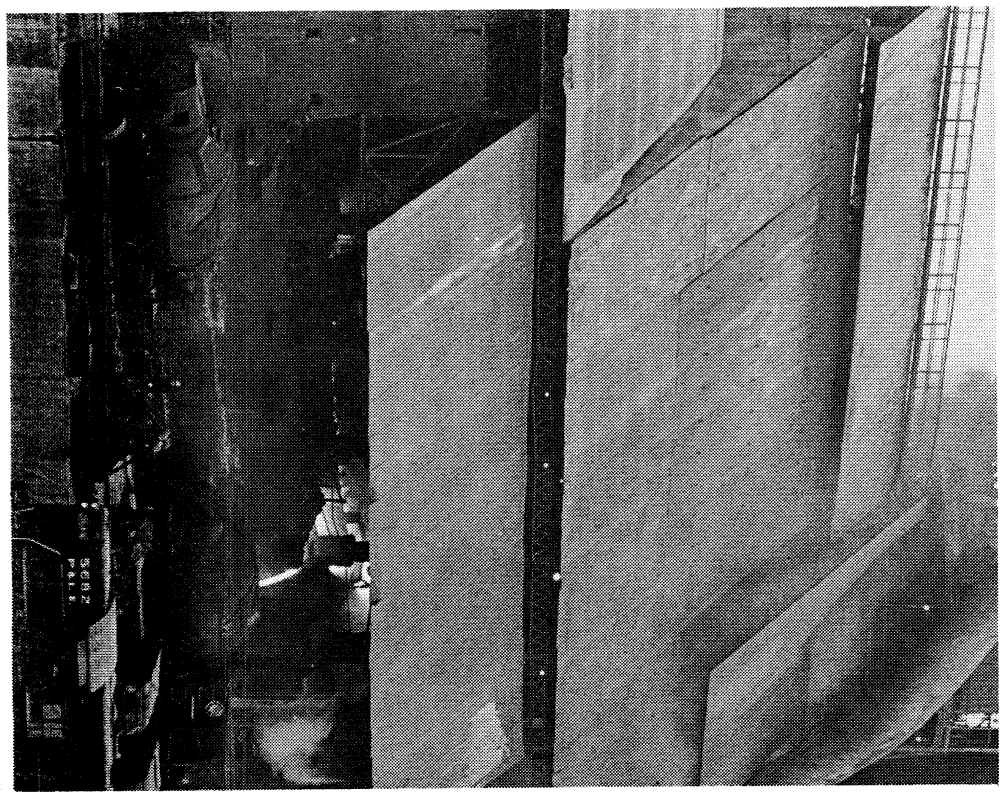
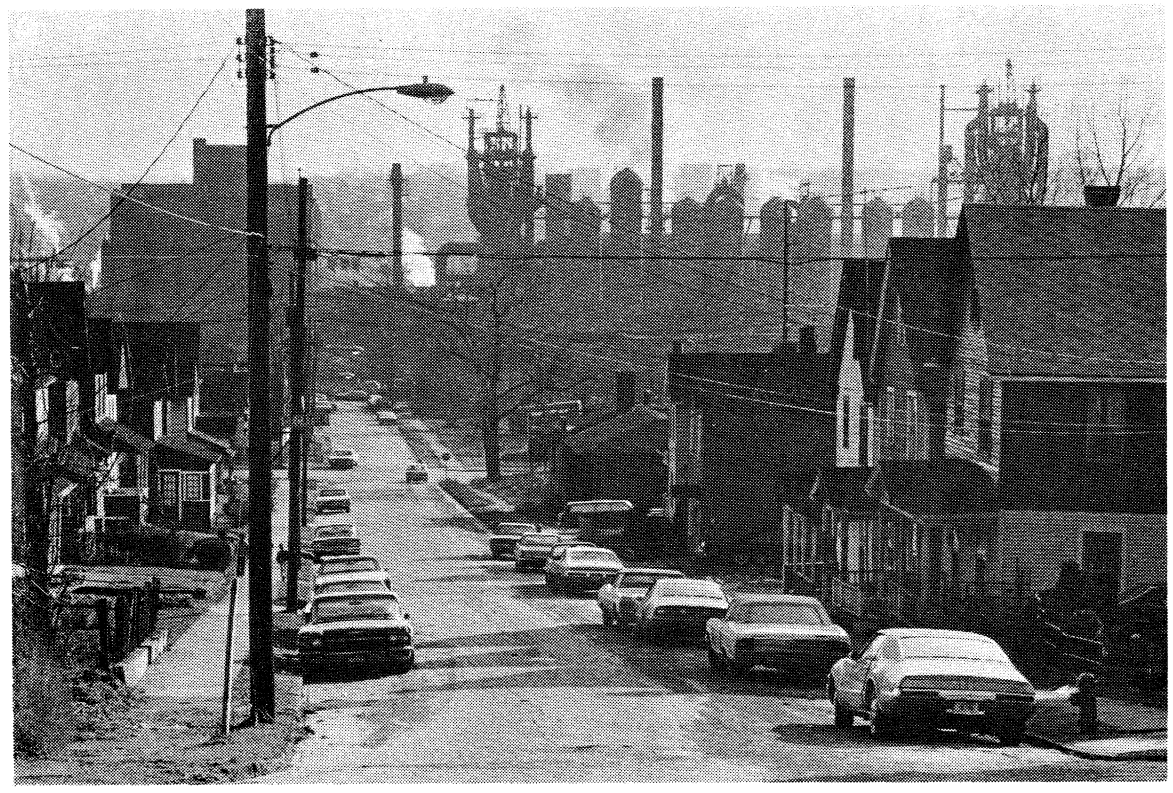

EMPLOYMENT
OFFICE



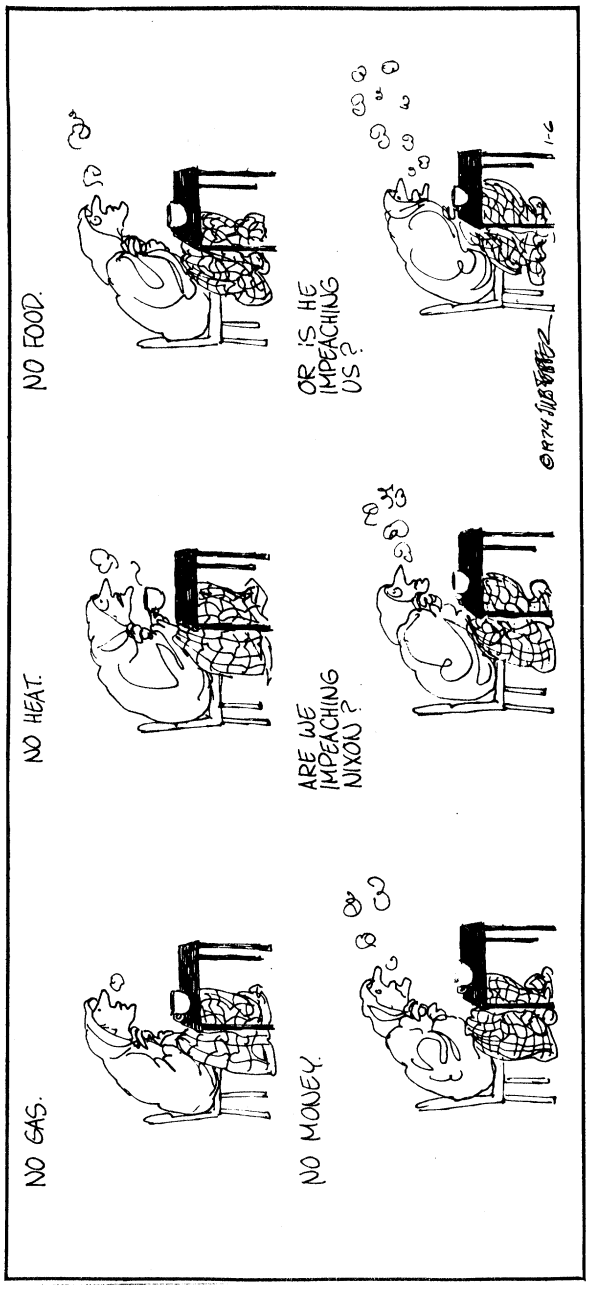


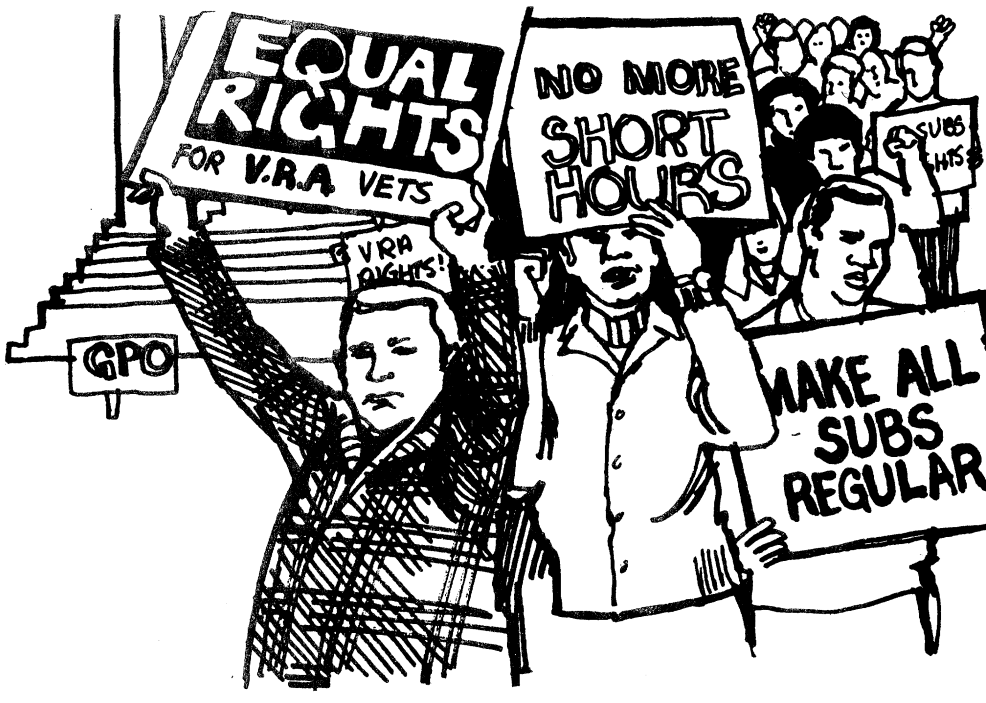
TOP RIGHT: Street of Youngstown, Ohio with steel mill in the background.
See interview with Youngstown steelworker on page 1 in the last packet (#581).
CREDIT: LNS

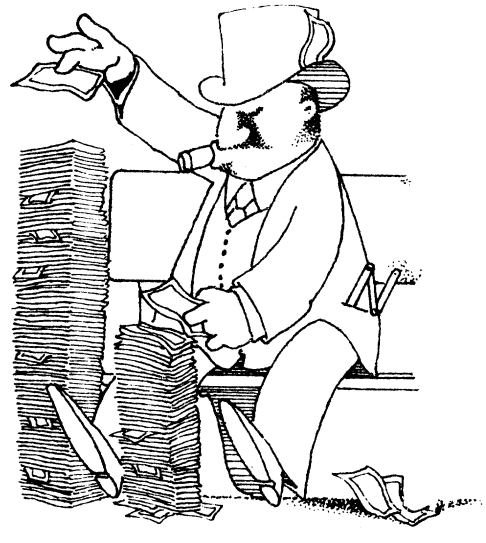
TOP LEFT: Men coming out of Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company's steel mill in Youngstown, Ohio.
See interview with Youngstown steelworker on page 1 in the last packet (#581).
Credit: LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT: US Steel works in Youngstown, Ohio.
See interview with Youngstown steelworker on page 1 in the last packet (#581).
Credit: LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Close up of steel mill in Youngstown, Ohio.
See interview with Youngstown steelworker on page 1 in the last packet (#581).
Credit: LNS


NO HEAT.
NO FOOD.
ARE WE IMPEACHING NIXON?
OR IS HE IMPEACHING US?
NO GAS.
NO MONEY.


EQUAL RIGHTS
FOR V.R.A. VETS
V.R.A. RIGHTS!
NO MORE SHORT HOURS
SUBS HITS
GPO
MAKE ALL SUBS REGULAR!



C. LASATER

TOP LEFT: Oil derrick. Can be used with energy stories.

CREDIT: LNS

MIDDLE LEFT: Demonstrating postal workers. May be used with the story on page 2 of this packet (#582).

CREDIT: OUTLAW/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT: Counting money.

CREDIT: Wiaz/LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR/LNS

BOTTOM CREDIT: Claire Lasater/LNS